

would be a horizon. And it does turn out that the horizon was Okinawa. I don't think anybody in the world imagined that the horizon really meant Okinawa.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank again the gentleman from Iowa.

My good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), has joined us at this late hour. At this time, I would like to call on him for his remarks concerning the Iraqi situation.

Mr. GOODE. I thank the gentleman.

I would like to restate some of the comments that we heard earlier today from the new Prime Minister of Iraq and make some of the points he said about how Iraq of today is different than what the Iraq of a few years ago was.

He said, "We have gone from a small one-party state ruled by a dictator and a small elite to a multi-party system where politics is the domain of every citizen and parties compete at all levels. What used to be a state-controlled media is now completely free and uncensored; something Iraq had never witnessed since its establishment as a modern state, and something which remains alien to most of the region. What used to be a command economy in Iraq we are rapidly transforming into a free market economy. In the past 3 years, our gross domestic product per capita has more than doubled, and it is expected that our economy will continue to grow."

He went on to say, "While small sections of central Iraq are unstable, large sections have remained peaceful but ignored for far too long. They were the most deprived areas of Iraq under the previous regime and have been the most valiant in Iraq's struggle for freedom. We need to make an example out of these stable areas as models for the rest of the country."

"Reconstruction projects in these areas will tackle unemployment, which will weaken the terrorists. They will become prototypes for other, more volatile regions to aspire to. Undoubtedly, reconstruction in these areas will fuel economic growth and show what a prosperous, stable, democratic, and federal Iraq would look like."

Today, Saddam Hussein is in prison awaiting the end of his trial. Zarqawi, the leader of the al Qaeda in Iraq, was eliminated by United States troops. Iraqi security forces now number over 265,000 and are participating in more than 90 percent of all security operations in the country. Iraqi citizens are coming forth with tips about insurgents and terrorist activities. More than 70 percent of Iraqi citizens voted in a series of free and fair elections. Those figures are some that those of us in this country could be envious of.

The progress in Iraq has not been without cost. This past week, a citizen of the Fifth District of Virginia from Greene County, a little community of Ruckersville, was killed by an IED. He was Corporal Adam Fargo. He went to William Monroe High School. He vol-

unteered for service in the United States Army. He, like so many of us who have volunteered on behalf of our country, has made the positive statistics and the statements and the changes in Iraq possible. But it is not just for the country of Iraq, it is for the United States of America.

We have indeed been fortunate in this country. Over the last 200 some odd years since our Nation was founded, rarely have there been attacks upon our homeland. Most of the fighting in World War II was abroad. All of the fighting in World War I was abroad. In Korea, the fighting was abroad. In Vietnam, the fighting was in Asia. And now, when we are in the Middle East, back in the Gulf War of 1990, 1991, the fighting was there. We liberated Kuwait. And now today, following September 11 when we were hit on our own soil, in Afghanistan men and women in our Armed Forces are standing up for America, and some have given their lives, have given their all for our Nation.

Our Nation is a beacon on a hill. It is the land of the free and the home of the brave because of those persons like Adam Fargo who have stood by our country and made those of us who are in the United States of America far safer and given us the ability to enjoy democracy and the greatest freedom in the world.

We need to thank all of our troops, and particularly those for whom we can never express enough gratitude for they have given their lives so that all of us may be free and that our democracy can be a shining light for the rest of the world.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I don't think anyone could possibly say it any better.

We must not break faith with those who have died for this cause and those who have been severely injured and their families. We have an obligation to them and to the Iraqi people.

I know all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were comforted to have the opportunity today to hear from the Iraqi Prime Minister and to have him answer some of these tough questions in regard to their commitment as well as our commitment. Because, as he said, we are a freedom-loving people throughout the world. They feel the same about liberty as we do, and their commitment to it is there, and it is strong, and their deep appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership for giving this opportunity to spend about 30 minutes with our colleagues; and now we will turn it over to our friends on the other side of the aisle for their time.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for the re-

maining time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to address the House tonight. The 30-Something Working Group is always prepared to come to the floor not only to share with the Members but the American people about some of the issues that we would love for the entire Congress to work on, Mr. Speaker, if we worked in a bipartisan way.

My friends on the other side of the aisle who just finished talking about Iraq, the beautiful thing about our democracy is that we have the opportunity to voice our opinion in the way we see it.

I think it is also important for us to realize what the reality is not only here in America but in Iraq and the Middle East and what is going on right here in the Midwest. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, or what is not going on as it relates to investing in the Midwest, making sure that we invest in America, using coal for energy, innovation, and also making sure that we can work with our farmers here in the United States so we don't have to depend on Middle East oil and we don't have to send our men and women into harm's way to make sure that we are able to put gas in our tanks here in the United States.

As you know, in our innovation agenda and also energizing America agenda, in our new direction for America, here in this side of the aisle we are for investing in the United States, we are for making sure that we can cut our dependency on Middle East oil so that we don't find ourselves in the middle of these conflicts that we are in right now.

As you know, we have been talking for several weeks about our new direction for America. I am glad Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ is here again tonight, as she always is, and it is great. It is like old times.

We have been working together for I know 12 years since I have been elected. You have been an elected official for 14 years. I met you when I came into the Florida House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ was the chair of the Education Committee when I showed up in Florida legislature, and I know that she is going to have a bright future here in the House of Representatives.

But I can tell you what the good news is. It is that we have the will and the desire on this side of the aisle to stand up on behalf of the American people, making sure we raise the minimum wage for working families and those that go to work every day, punch in and punch out, know what it means to have a 15-minute break in the morning and a 15-minute break in the evening.

□ 2330

For those individuals that are working the midnight shift, we are with those families. We want to make sure

that they are making a livable wage, and when we raise the minimum wage, that means that those individuals that are making over the minimum wage, those that are making \$8 or \$9 or \$10 an hour, those individuals in big corporate America are going to have to look at what they are paying them, Mr. Speaker, if we raise the minimum wage.

That is not what is going to happen, and I think as long as the Republican majority is in place that is not going to happen.

If I can, before I yield to my good friend and colleague and a true good friend, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, our districts are right next to each other in the State of Florida, we work together, like I said, Mr. Speaker, for a period of years, of giving the American people what we have received.

What we received on this floor and what we call, well, we the opportunity to give ourselves raises. We do not have to petition the Congress to receive a raise. The American people want a raise, those hourly workers that are out there. They want a raise, and hopefully, we can talk a little bit about that tonight and a number of issues they are facing.

We are going to talk a little bit about Iraq and the realities of Iraq. Members can come to the floor, God bless them, and give their opinion or their view of what they think is going on in Iraq and in other parts of this world, but I think it is important for us to, just as simple as picking up the paper or watching the news or talking to our constituents, they are saying, Congressman, Congresswoman, my son is going off to war on his fourth or fifth deployment or my daughter is going to off to war on the fourth or fifth deployment and you are saying on the majority side, and from the White House, stay the course, stay the course. To do what? And where is the plan?

But let me just get back to what I was saying about how we give ourselves raises here in this House. The Republican majority has made it abundantly clear that they do not have the will nor the desire to give the American people what they have given themselves, and the good thing, Mr. Speaker, about this side and the reason why I can speak truth to power and that I can come to this floor with a straight face and all of my colleagues, Republican, Democrats and one Independent we have in this House, I can boldly say here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives that veterans have fought for us to salute one flag. Those individuals that are in Arlington Cemetery right now, that all we have is their memory and their commitment to this country, that if we have the audacity to give ourselves raises, Republican majority leading the effort to give raises to Members of Congress and vote "no" to allow individuals that are working for \$5 and pennies every day, punching in and punching out, with all of the gas prices, all of the issues of the price of milk, the price of bread, the

price of college tuition, we are able to do better for our kids and our families because the Republican majority said, hey, that is fine, we can give ourselves raises, but let not us give it to these others folks.

Let me say this to those other folks, the American people. Since 1997 there has not been a Federal increase in the minimum wage. Here are the facts, and that is why we come to the floor, Mr. Speaker, to just give the facts to the Members.

This is a Congressional Research Service report April 18, 2006. Any Member of Congress, Democrat, Republican, Independent, American, that is paying attention to what we are saying right now can go on housedemocrats.gov and get this information.

1998, Members of Congress received \$3,100 in a raise; minimum wage workers, zero. 2000, Members of Congress, \$4,600 raise that the Republican majority has given Members of Congress; minimum wage workers, zero. 2001, \$3,800 for Members of Congress, pay increase, what we call cost of living, that is a nice way to dress it up; minimum wage workers, zero. Members of Congress in 2002, \$4,900 increase, just got in 2001 remember a \$3,800 raise, \$4,900; minimum wage, zero. 2003, \$4,700; minimum wage workers, zero. 2004, \$3,400; minimum wage workers, zero. 2005, \$4,000, Members just received a \$3,400 raise; minimum wage workers, zero. 2006, \$3,100 in the present year; minimum wage workers, zero.

The Republican leadership has pretty much said over our you know what body we will not give minimum wage workers an increase. Meanwhile, here in the House, there are plans that are already drawn for Members of Congress in 2007, if the American people allow it to happen and not evaluate every Member of Congress, because even if you do not make the minimum wage, you have to have a conscience about, well, we have individuals that are out there. Gas prices have gone up. If you make \$8, \$12, even \$18 an hour, you have to have a conscience about these individuals that have to pay the same price you have to pay for gas, have to pay the same price you have to pay for health care. If you are struggling, imagine what someone that is making \$5 and pennies have to go through.

So I think it is important and it is very pivotal that we are here at 11:37 eastern standard time after other Members of Congress have gone back to their homes, either resting with their families, in their office working, what have you, we are here on the floor carrying the water on behalf of the American people.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is absolutely right, and we are here because it is imperative that we move this country in a new direction. Americans are begging us to take us off the course we are on now.

It is such a privilege to be here with you. We have been good friends for more than a dozen years now. It is just

a privilege to share a community with you, to share constituents who really have been clamoring not just in south Florida where we live but all across the country. You and I travel the country talking to Americans in so many places, and it does not matter. What I found and I know you have, too, it does not matter what walk of life they come from. It does not matter whether they are wealthy or middle class or lower income. No one that I have spoken to says, Debbie, yes, yes, you know, let us keep it right the way we are going, you know, just keep going in the same direction because everything is great. It is almost laughable to say that.

The minimum wage is a perfect thing to highlight in terms of the example that we need to throw out there to show where our priorities would be if we were in control, and we know we are not, versus where the Republicans' priorities are. We try to use third party validators so it is not just the KENDRICK MEEK, TIM RYAN, BILL DELAHUNT, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ show. We want to make sure we use legitimate references to demonstrate and back up the things we say.

Many time what we talk about here can seem like inside baseball. The terminology we use can seem a little esoteric so we try to boil it down for folks.

Let us take the minimum wage. You talked about the minimum wage historically and what it means in terms of real dollars today. Let us talk about the minimum wage and the fact that it has not been raised in 9 years, what that impact is on the average family in terms of the difference of what things cost in the last 9 years.

So, if you take a look at this chart, this is what real economic change under President Bush has been like. While we have not increased the minimum wage since 1997, as you referred to a few minutes ago, there are plenty of things that have increased in cost.

Over on the left-hand part of the chart, the minimum wage has not increased at all, yet whole milk has increased 24 percent since 1997. Bread, 25 percent. A 4-year public college education has increased 77 percent. Health insurance has increased 97 percent, and that is if you can even get it because there are 46 million Americans that do not have health insurance and millions of small business employers who have dropped their insurance coverage for their employees because it has reached the point of unaffordability, with upwards of 15 percent increases every single year.

Let us look at the price of regular gas. It has gone up, while the minimum wage has not, 136 percent. And so what does that mean? Sometimes people cannot get their mind around percentages and what those mean.

So let us take a look at what Americans are paying for in terms of gas prices. The Americans now are paying 100 percent more for gas than when President Bush first took office, and he

has the nerve to stand in this chamber and to give speeches across this country talking about how he thinks that America is addicted to foreign oil and we need to get a handle on how we are going to expand alternative energy resources. Really? With what funding? Where is the initiative? Where is the proposal? Where is the legislation? Because all of it just gets rubber stamped here. When we propose any of those things as a solution as a Democrats, what do Republicans do? They vote "no." No, no, Mr. President; yes, Mr. President. Just the bobblehead Republicans do whatever is asked of them, and it is certainly not to expand the opportunity to invest in the Midwest in terms of our energy resources versus the Mideast.

So, if you look at the price of a gallon of gas, when President Bush began his term, January 20, 2001, the average price of a gallon of gas was \$1.45 and today, it is \$3.01.

Now, what I attribute that to, and what I attribute the seeming indifference on the part of the Republicans and their leadership here towards this problem, it has got to be because there is no other explanation that they are not filling their own gas tank. It has really got to be that they are not the ones that are actually putting the gas in their car themselves because, if they were, they would realize that now, instead of pennies, remember when we were younger and our parents would fill the gas tank and the fastest number that scrolled on the gas tank itself was a penny? Well, now, it is dimes because that is how much prices have increased in terms of gas.

The only thing I can think of, Mr. Speaker, that I can attribute the indifference of Republicans towards the energy crisis and the gas prices that Americans are facing is that they have not filled their cars with gas since gas pumps looked like this.

This is a gas pump or at least an example of a gas pump and what one looked like in the 1950s, and perhaps it is just that it was so long ago that they filled their gas tanks themselves. I am not sure who is filling their gas tanks. Maybe they all have drivers. They really only focus on the needs of the wealthy. So perhaps people are driving them around. That really, for me, is the only explanation.

I really fail to understand why they continue to allow oil companies the ability to not pay royalties to the Federal Government in exchange for utilizing our oil reserves, the ability and the right to drill into the ocean floor and draw up oil that is on land owned by the Federal Government. They are supposed to pay subsidies and royalties. We have passed legislation on at least two occasions since I have been here, and I am only a freshman, that have essentially forgiven those royalties and given multi-millions of dollars back to the oil companies and into the pockets of the CEOs and the wealthiest few people. It is absolutely mindboggling to me.

We, as Democrats, have the priorities of the American people straight. We understand that we need to move the country in a new direction, Mr. Speaker. We need to make sure that we expand access to health care. We want to make sure that we actually invest in alternative energy resources so that we can truly, within 10 years, become independent of foreign oil resources and invest in the Midwest instead of in the Middle East.

We want to make sure that we can get a handle on this deficit. You and I have young children, and right now, if we stay the course and continue in the direction that this President and this Republican leadership has taken us in, our children and our children's children will be saddled with the deficit and the Nation's debt that this President has mired us in, all by himself, and by his Republican rubber stamp colleagues that we work in this chamber with.

If something is not done, our children, I fear for the world that they grow up in, not just in terms of foreign policy but in terms of domestic policy.

□ 2345

What is going to happen to our kids when they grow up in a world where we are underfunding education, where they do not have access to health insurance, where gas prices are so out of control and there is no mass transit for them to use as an alternative so that they can get to work? What are they going to do in a world where the deficit is continuing to skyrocket and we are going further and further in debt to other countries? What are they going to do?

Hopefully, we are going to be able to get this country back on track after the November elections.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, I talk to my constituents, and I talk to the American people that are walking through the halls of Congress. You know, this is the summertime, Mr. Speaker, and, as you know, we have a number of visitors that visit the Capitol of the United States here. We wear these congressional pins. And last night when we left at 12 midnight there were Girl Scouts out front.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is right.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. You are a Brownie Troop leader, or a Girl Scout leader.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. No, I am a Brownie Troop leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I used to be a Boy Scout Troop leader in Scott Homes some years back in Miami. But those little girls were at the foot of the steps taking pictures of the front of this Capitol of the United States, the Capitol of our great country. And, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, I have children, you have children, but this is really not about our children, because they are going to be okay, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's children have names that end with Wasserman Schultz. They will get into the schools they need to get into. They will get the access they need for education. Doors will open for them that would not open for other children in our districts.

My children's last names end with Meek, and they will be treated differently than other children, need it be Johnson or Hermanowski, or what have you. They will be treated differently than them.

So this is not about our children. This is about the folks that elected us to come here to this U.S. House of Representatives to represent them. This is about making sure that they have a fair chance at life, just like our children.

Members of Congress, a number of them in the House and Senate, our children are going to be okay. They are going to be okay because their last names end with the names of Members of Congress. But what about those individuals that woke up early one Tuesday morning to vote for representation? What about those individuals that walk in here as employees into this Capitol, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, to serve the American people? Will they get the same access that we have? Will they have the same access that Members of Congress have as it relates to health care? Will someone open the doors for them?

I will answer that question. No. And I am not saying every person should be treated the same as Members of Congress. But the way things are going now, if you are a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, and you are thinking of voting in the next election, you have to be concerned.

Mr. Speaker, there are prominent Republicans that are referring to their colleagues as "they." The former Speaker of this House is referring to his Republican colleagues in Congress as "they," because he doesn't want to be associated with them. I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker. And I am going to break out this chart again. And you know something, I can break this chart out every 5 minutes of the day, every 5 minutes of the day, because it is so revealing and it takes it home as to exactly what we are talking about.

This is why I am here a few minutes before midnight. That is the reason why I think it is important we continue to share with the American people what is going on, and with Members of Congress. I have my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle that say, Congressman, that little red, white, and blue chart you break out every day, aren't you tired of it? And my answer is, no. It is the hard reality of what is going on in the republic, as we stand now as a country.

We have other countries that are looking at us in a different way. And, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, everyone looks at the United States of America, and just because the Republican majority says that everything is fine doesn't

necessarily mean that it is. Because here are the hard facts.

The hard facts are these, Mr. Speaker. President Bush and the Republican majority has borrowed \$1.05 trillion, \$1.05 trillion, from foreign nations. Historic. And my next chart tells you who we are borrowing it from, and they are owning a part of the American apple pie not because they had to pay \$56 to fill up their F-10 pickup truck, not because of their indiscretions, but because of the indiscretions of the Republican majority.

We have 224 years of history in this country, with 42 presidents before this President, and they were only able to borrow \$1.01 trillion. Those are the facts. That is from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It is not the Kendrick Meek report or the Debbie Wasserman Schultz report or the 30-something report because we think it works towards our position and not leveling with the American people.

I can tell you without looking at this chart, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you exactly what is on it because I have read it so many times to so many groups and here on this floor.

Who are we borrowing it from? Who is owning a piece of the American apple pie? Japan, at \$682 billion; China, at \$249.8 billion; the U.K., at \$223.2 billion; the Caribbean, at \$115.3 billion; Taiwan, at \$71.3 billion; and the OPEC nations, that I can go on and talk about these countries that we have issues with, Iran, Syria, oil-producing Middle Eastern countries that we are borrowing money from that we have issues with. They own a piece of the American pie at \$67.8 billion; Germany, \$65.7 billion; Korea, \$66.5 billion; Canada, \$53.8 billion.

These are the countries that are buying our debt. And it is not because of what the American people have done but what the Republican majority has allowed to happen. They have rubber-stamped everything the President of the United States has sent to this floor. And that is not what article one, section one of the U.S. Constitution calls for.

We use the Constitution as guiding principles on behalf of this country. I am not here on behalf of the House Democrats. I am here on behalf of the American people, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ is here on behalf of the American people. There is a reason why prominent Republicans are saying that they are totally lost at what the Republican majority has done, Mr. Speaker, and that is that fact that that the American spirit will rise up out of partisan politics.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I will definitely yield, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you. Because with everything that we have laid out here over the last 20 or so minutes, what is clear is that we are moving in the wrong direction. The priorities of the Republican leadership

here are completely out of step with the priorities of the American people. So, instead, what the Republicans here have attempted to do is to shift the focus and attention away from what is really going on and engaging in the politics of distraction.

Now this that I have in my hand is about to become a scarcity. It is a social studies textbook, an American history textbook, which, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that in our high schools will soon be obsolete. We won't have any reason to use these any more, particularly the section on how a bill becomes a law. Because last week we actually brought a bill to the floor that was defeated in the Judiciary Committee, a bill that related to court stripping, stripping the courts of the right to review cases related to the Pledge of Allegiance and whether under God was constitutional or not.

Now that question can be debated all day, and there are varying degrees of opinions on that subject. But we teach our children in public schools the concept of how a bill becomes a law, as created by our Founding Fathers, this system of checks and balances and the separation of powers. And because the Republicans are moving this country in the wrong direction and don't share the priorities of the American people, they have had to deflect attention away from what is really going on here and focus on things like the Pledge of Allegiance, gay marriage, and flag burning.

Today in Judiciary we literally spent, Mr. MEEK, 6½ hours on one bill and one amendment related to the separation of church and state. Now, Mr. MEEK, when you go home, do your constituents, does the father of four who leaves for work in the morning, when you see him on the street, does he stop you and say, KENDRICK, I really want you to go to the Congress and focus on the Pledge of Allegiance? Or do you think it is more likely, and in your experience, do they tell you, you know, I just wasn't sure how I was going to fill my gas tank today?

Or how about the parents of kids who are fighting over in Iraq? Do you think they are really worried about whether we amend the Constitution to ban gay marriage? Is that at the top of those parents' list, or is it more likely that at the top of their list that their baby comes home to them?

What is going on here?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely, I would be happy to yield.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I think what is important here, at least when I go to speak to the American people, and even in my own district, and as you know we travel. We defeated the privatization of Social Security, to allow individuals on Wall Street that were looking forward to receiving over \$500 billion under the President's plan to privatize Social Security. We had over 500 town hall meetings throughout this country. You had town hall meetings in your district.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We had over a thousand.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. A thousand. Okay. I am glad you corrected me, because we want to make sure we give facts, not fiction.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that we make an important note here, and I am asking the Members and the American people, Mr. Speaker, to vote principle over politics. You have to vote principle over politics.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. MEEK, from what I have seen here, that is impossible for these people.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I just want to make a point here, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. This is to the Members, to place on their conscience what the American people may very well think.

Let's say I am a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat, and I am a voter, and I am paying more for gas. There is a war going on that my leaders are telling me we are going to stay the course, but no plan, and energy independence and innovation is not a priority.

If we were in the majority, let's just say for instance that we are in the majority and this is not happening. Let's say I am a veteran, and I have to wait in rural America for the clinic that is only open 3 days a month, then I have to think about the principle over politics. Maybe I am going to vote for the other person this time because my family is suffering. Maybe my kids are not getting what they need as it relates to education. Maybe that is not in line with the principle of what we are talking about here.

So I think it is important, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, as you point this out, that Members of Congress and the American people will have to think this time. I told you I have given up on the Republican majority. They have had all the time in the world to do what they have to do.

Look at what we are paying on the debt because of the irresponsible spending of the Republican majority and giving tax cuts to billionaires and millionaires. Look at the debt we are paying because we have borrowed all that debt from foreign countries. Look what we are doing on education. Look how far down it is for every teacher, for every mother or grandmother or grandfather, what have you, who wants to see their generation of children and grandchildren have a better opportunity than what they have had.

Look at what the Federal Government is investing in their education. Look at what is happening in homeland security. Republican Members of Congress on the majority side can burn all kind of jet fuel, at taxpayers' expense, flying down to the border talking about how we are going to get tough on immigration. But look at what they are doing for homeland security and look at veterans.

Hello! We are saluting one flag, and I talked about this earlier, those that have made the ultimate sacrifice, those that are away from their families.

Look at what the Republican majority is investing in their future and what they have promised in terms of providing health care and other benefits. Look at what they are investing versus what we are paying on the debt.

So just because, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, as I yield back to you before we close, just because they say it doesn't necessarily mean it is true.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Four months, Mr. MEEK. Less than 4 months. This may be the last evening that we spend as the 30-something Working Group until we come back from the August recess. The 30-something Working Group has an opportunity each night to talk about the direction we want to move this country on behalf of Democrats and the next generation.

All of the charts and information that we have talked about tonight are available on our Web site, www.housedemocrats.gov/30something. We appreciate the privilege that the leader gives us each night to talk about the priorities of the Democratic caucus and the American people, and it is a privilege to be here with you once again.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It was good coming back to the floor with you.

As you know, in the 30-something Working Group, we not only come to the floor but we meet every week. We have staff evaluate things for factual purposes, and I am glad that we are coming to level with the American people about what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, before closing out, we would like to honor Tim Frieman, who has worked here in the Democratic cloakroom for 30 years. We appreciate his contributions and all that he has done. We had a great reception, Members, bipartisan, went down here in the Capitol and honored him. We appreciate him and his family for their contributions.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPITO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on account of business in the district.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WEINER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3549. An act to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950, to strengthen Government review and oversight of foreign investment in the United States, to provide for enhanced Congressional oversight with respect thereto, and for other purposes to the Committee on Financial Services in addition to the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 9. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

H.J. Res. 86. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4019. An act to amend title 4 of the United States Code to clarify the treatment of self-employment for purposes of the limitation on State taxation of retirement income.

H.R. 4472. An act to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime, to prevent child abuse and child pornography, to promote Internet safety, and to honor the memory of Adam Walsh and other child crime victims.

H.R. 5865. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to temporarily increase funding for the program of temporary assistance for United States citizens returned from foreign countries, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1496. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on July 26, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 9. To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

H.R. 2977. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 2nd Avenue in Brockway, Montana, as the "Paul Kasten Post Office Building".

H.R. 3440. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodriguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the "Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building".

H.R. 3934. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Killian Road in Massapequa, New York, as the "Gerard A. Fiorenza Post Office Building".

H.R. 4101. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 East Main Street in Patchogue, New York, as the "Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office Building".

H.R. 4108. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3000 Homewood Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building".

H.R. 4456. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street in Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the "Hattie W. Caraway Station".

H.R. 4472. An act to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime, to prevent child abuse and child pornography, to promote Internet safety, and to honor the memory of Adam Walsh and other child crime victims.

H.R. 4561. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8624 Ferguson Road in Dallas, Texas, as the "Francisco 'Pancho' Medrano Pt Office Building".

H.R. 4688. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Boyden Street in Badin, North Carolina, as the "Mayor John Thompson 'Tom' Garrison Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 4786. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the "H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building".

H.R. 4995. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Columbus Avenue in Tuckahoe, New York, as the "Ronald Bucca Post Office".

H.R. 5245. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Marble Street in Fair Haven, Vermont, as the "Matthew Lyon Post Office Building."

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8777. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting